## City of Cambridge Police Review and Advisory Board

51 Inman Street Cambridge MA 02130 617-349-4396

## Minutes 4/28/2010

**Board Members Present:** Mertin Betts (chair), Alexandra Detjens, Richard Peters, Susan Melucci and Martin Small

Staff Present: Executive Secretary Marlissa Briggett and Investigative Outreach Liaison Joseph Johnson

Cambridge Police: Deputy Superintendent Christine Elow, Jennifer Flagg

Public Present: Albert Skane, King Downing and Brigitt Keller.

The meeting began at 6:07 p.m. with public participation. Ms. Keller noted her appreciation for PRAB's compliance with open meeting laws and for taking the suggestions of the public into account.

The minutes of March 31, 2010 and April 21, 2010 were approved by the board.

In the Executive Secretary's report, Ms. Briggett reported on the status of the board's rules and regulations. She noted that the rules and regulations were adopted in 1997 and do not reflect subsequent changes made as a result of board action or state law. She provided a copy of the rules and regulations to each of the board members with accompanying memos that reflected revisions. She recommended that the board make a priority the revision of these regulations to clarify current practices. Ms. Briggett reported that budget hearings before the city council would be taking place the following week. The PRAB budget is essentially the same as last year with a slight increase for salaries and the same amount for travel, training and other ordinary maintenance. Finally, Ms. Briggett noted that the law department wants to provide training for open meeting law to board members and the police department is working on setting up dates for training.

In the report from the Cambridge Police Department, Deputy Superintendent Elow addressed concerns raised by the public in the March 31 meeting with respect to advising youth who are part of the diversion process about complaint processes.

Ms. Jennifer Flagg reported that the Review Panel met recently. As part of that meeting, the Panel met with representatives from the PRAB board, Chair Betts and Ms. Detjens, and PRAB's Executive Secretary Marlissa Briggett. Board Chair Betts reported that the panel was inquisitive about PRAB and that they were focusing on policing as a profession, not an investigation of the Gates case. Betts expressed that he felt there were no conflicts with the panel's work and the work of PRAB. Ms. Flagg reported that the review panel hoped to release the final report in early June.

Sue Melucci moved that the board convene in executive session to consider complaints pending before the board and Mertin Betts seconded the motion. All voted to move to executive session.